

THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

February 20, 2007

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on February 20, 2007 at 4:00pm at the Recreation Main Office with the following members present: Mmes. Driehaus and Brewer and Messrs. Fultz, Moeddel, and Smith with Ms. Driehaus presiding. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Cox, Simmons, Gutjahr, Glos, Melzer, Barnes, Yemaya, and Kazin and Messrs. Thomas, Bigham, Koopman, Celsor, Williams, LeConey, and Kalker.

MINUTES

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2007 meeting as submitted.

Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Melissa Autry, Clerk of Council

A letter was received from Melissa Autry, Clerk of Council, confirming the re-appointment of Denise Driehaus to the Cincinnati Recreation Commission to serve a five year term. This item was received for filing.

Letter from Eileen Cooper Reed, President of the Cincinnati Board of Education

A letter was received from Eileen Cooper Reed, President of the Cincinnati Board of Education, advising of the reappointment of Catherine D. Ingram to the Cincinnati Recreation Commission for the 2007 year. This item was received for filing.

Article in the *Eastside Life*

April Sullivan from the Mt. Washington Community Center was highlighted in the *Eastside Life* "Did you Catch a Star Today" article. This item was received for filing.

Letter from Charley Frank, Executive Director, Reds Community Fund

Mr. Garges received a letter of thanks from Charley Frank for CRC's support of the Reds Community Fund in 2006. This item was received for filing.

Email from Kay Steinmetz

Kay Steinmetz sent an email to Mr. Garges thanking him and CRC staff for the work at the Prospect Hill Park and Playground. The community could not be more delighted with the results. This item was received for filing.

Letter from Jeannie Masterson, CSJ, Pastoral Associate, Saint Anthony Church

Mike Thomas received a letter from Jeannie Masterson of the Saint Anthony Church commending the Madisonville Community Center staff for their help and participation with the New Mission Baptist Churches 14th Annual Taste of African American Culture. This item was received for filing.

Letter from Charley Frank, Executive Director, Reds Community Fund

Kathy Lang received a letter of thanks from Charley Frank for CRC's support of the Reds Community Fund in 2006. This item was received for filing.

Letters to the Editor in the *Forest Hills Journal* on February 2, 2007

Edna Jenkins of Mt. Washington wrote a letter commending the wonderful programs going on at the Mt. Washington Community center and encouraging people to join. This item was received for filing.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Program Highlight – Arts

Carolyn Gutjahr introduced Kristin Dietsche, Co-Chair of the CRC Public Art Committee and member of the Cincinnati Arts Allocation Committee.

The Cincinnati Arts Allocation Committee (CAAC) is a nine-member volunteer advisory body that assists CRC in administering the arts grant programs. Members of the CAAC are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by City Council. The Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) administers the arts grant programs, conducts annual grant writing workshops, and provides technical assistance, information, and referral services for artists and arts and cultural organizations.

Ms. Gutjahr and Ms. Dietsche gave an overview of the City of Cincinnati Arts Grant Programs. The City's arts policy designates 0.14 percent of City General Fund revenue for support of three arts grant programs. In 2007 and 2008 the two grant programs for arts and cultural organizations are funded by a two-year donation from the Carol Ann & Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation in partnership with the Fine Arts

Fund; the artist grant program and City administrative costs for the grant programs are supported by City funds.

Ms. Dietsche thanked Commission for allowing them to help in the Director's search. She stated that while they are thrilled with the Haile Foundation's donation, there are some issues. The donation is only for two years and is a very sharp move toward private funding of the Art Program. Ms. Gutjahr advised that private funders don't fund individual artists and that the Cincinnati Arts Allocation Committee consider funding individual artists a high priority. They recommend that the Director of Recreation be knowledgeable in arts funding and do everything possible to prevent privatization of the City of Cincinnati Arts Grant Programs.

Ms. Driehaus thanked Ms. Gutjahr and Ms. Dietsche for their presentation and stated that the Commission appreciates all the time and effort put forth by the members of the Arts Grant Committees.

Information and Briefing Items

Mike Thomas advised that CRC was the recipient of 5 awards at the recent OPRA Conference held in Cleveland, Ohio.

- CRC, along with their partner, the Hamilton County Park District, took top honors in the Category of Park Area Development greater than \$5 million. The award was given for the Otto Armleder Little Miami Park.
- The other top honor received was for Youth Programs that was given for the "Artist in Residence" program.
- Meritorious Award received for Senior Programming – Chalk Talk and Senior 8 Ball Pool League.
- Meritorious Award received for Marketing Electronic Media – NFL Flag Promotional DVD.
- Honorable Mention received for the renovations at the Reeves Golf Course.

Youth Commission Member Report

Tinisha Brewer provided the Youth Commission Member Report.

Ms. Brewer stated that on January 23rd 35 plus teens met to design and name the teen website. Keith Schneider from the IT department worked with teens gathering the information of what they would like to see on the site.

The next teen social will be on February 26th at the University of Cincinnati's Campus Recreation Center where they will enjoy pizza and participate in activities on the basketball court, wall ball court and the climbing wall from 6:00 – 8:00pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Dunham Aquatic Center Public Art Project Design Concept

Carolyn Gutjahr introduced artists Rebecca Seeman and Claire Darley who have been commissioned by CRC to design the artworks that will be incorporated into the fence/railing at the new Dunham aquatic center. The artists presented their design concept to the Commission. The design concept will be presented to the Price Hill Civic Club at their meeting next month.

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the Dunham Aquatic Center Public Art Project Design Concept conditional on the artists receiving approval of their design by the Price Hill Civic Club.

Motion passed.

Authorization to Develop Ordinance to Apply For and Accept Artist-in-Residence Grant From Ohio Arts Council

An ordinance is required in order for CRC to apply for and receive an Artist-in-Residence (AIR) grant from the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). An AIR project in narrative quilt making with artist Kate Gorman is being planned for fall 2007.

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to authorize the development of an ordinance to apply for and accept the Artist-in-Residence Grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

Motion passed.

2007 Action Plan

The Commissioners each received a copy of the 2007 Action Plan. Ms. Driehaus questioned why the Athletics report didn't list "Beginning" and "Ending" times as the other Division reports did. This was an oversight and will be completed. Mr. Moeddel asked what kind of follow-up was done on these reports. Mr. Thomas explained that there are quarterly updates to the reports and quarterly reviews of the reports. Mr. Moeddel stated that he feels it is important to show Council what we do. Mr. Thomas

informed that he is working on a 5 Year Youth Strategic Plan and will hopefully have a draft ready at the March meeting.

Mr. Moeddel moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve the 2007 Action Plan as submitted pending the addition of the “Beginning” and “Ending” times on the Athletics report.

Motion passed.

2007 Golf Advisory Council

It was decided that in the future the Golf Advisory Council will be presented to Commission at the March meeting each year.

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the 2007 Golf Advisory Council.

Motion passed.

Field Trips

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the field trips for various CRC centers and programs as submitted.

Motion passed.

Joint Meeting of CRC Commission and Foundation Boards

Ms. Driehaus advised that Jason Cohen, President of the CRC Foundation Board, would like to schedule a joint meeting of the two Boards for the purpose of discussing Commission’s thoughts on the purpose and role of the Foundation. Commissioners felt that this was a very good idea and it was decided that Ms. Driehaus and Mr. Moeddel will meet with the Foundation Board. Ms. Driehaus will contact Mr. Cohen to schedule a meeting.

Property Use at Kennedy Playground

Cincinnati Water Works has requested permission to move the fence in the rear of the pump building on Kennedy Avenue. The fence will be moved onto CRC controlled area approximately 25 feet to allow Water Works to install a backup generator for the pump station. This is all City owned property and will not affect any CRC operations.

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to approve Cincinnati Water Works’ request to move the fence in the rear of the pump building on Kennedy Avenue.

Motion passed.

Senior Olympics All City Membership

Rev. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Fultz, to permit Senior Olympics to issue the Senior All City Membership Card for \$15.00 instead of \$16.00. The cost of Senior Olympics is \$15.00 and it is not recommended to raise the Senior Olympic fee.

Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made that an Executive Session of the Recreation Commission be held pursuant to Section 121.22(G) of the Ohio Revised Code for charges or complaints against employees to consider the dismissal, discipline or demotion of a public employee. Roll call: Ms. Driehaus, yes; Rev. Smith, yes; Mr. Fultz, yes; Mr. Moeddel, yes. The Commission came out of Executive Session and the General Session resumed.

Personnel Issue

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to accept the Hearing Officer's recommendation of an 8 hour suspension on the charge of Neglect of Duty for Larry Hummons, Truck Driver.

Motion passed.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Ms. Driehaus stated that she feels we need to reschedule the Aquatic Workshop that was cancelled in December 2006. It was decided that the workshop would take place on Tuesday, March 6th, at 4:00pm in the Main Office Boardroom.

Ms. Driehaus advised that the position for Director of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission has been posted and the job profile has been sent out. The PAR Group will receive the applications and do the background checks. They will send the Commission the top candidates and Commission will review and request interviews with the candidates believed best qualified. Mr. Fultz stated that he feels that the Commission should receive all applications. Ms. Driehaus advised that we have hired the PAR Group to review all applications and forward the applications of the top candidates to us. She further stated that she is sure that the Recreation Commission will have access to all applications if anyone would like to look at them.

Ms. Driehaus asked Commission Members if they would be interested in having email addresses through the CRC website. Mr. Moeddel questioned if it would be possible to have the emails routed to another email address. Ms. Driehaus asked Mr. Bigham to check into the possibility of this.

COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 4:00pm at the Glenview Golf Course, 10965 Springfield Pike (46).

Meeting Adjourned.

Denise M. Driehaus

Michael A. Thomas

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